MAKING
RESEARCH
Relevant

HEALTH RESEARCH ANNUAL REPORT 1999/2000

A message from the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

It is with great pleasure and pride that I release the Ministry's "Making Research Relevant" report for 1999/2000.

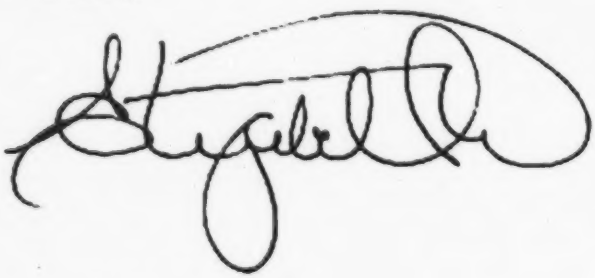
This report exemplifies our government's commitment to making funds available to support the very highest standards of health research being conducted in Ontario.

We are pleased to be working together with the health research community and decision makers to help make health research more accessible, useful and relevant to a changing health system. Our funding, and our work in partnership with the research community, is a vital link connecting research to health policy makers, service planners, managers and providers.

Our investment in research, as documented in this report, is one of the foundations upon which we are creating a health system that will best serve the needs of Ontarians far into the 21st Century. We are profoundly grateful for the commitment made by Ontario's outstanding scientists in helping us achieve this goal.

I offer my congratulations to this year's research grant recipients and wish each and every one of them great success in their upcoming research projects.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Witmer, MPP
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

RESEARCH: THE CORNERSTONE OF A HEALTHY FUTURE

Where does the money go?

In order to ensure funds are allocated to areas that will be the most beneficial to our health system and the Ontario population, the Ministry has identified categories for research funding.

They are:

Health Research Personnel Development Program - ***Researchers receive Career Scientist Awards in competition to support their work***

Ontario Health Services Co-Sponsorship Fund - ***Co-Sponsorship with the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation (CHSRF) of funds awarded in competition to Ontario health services research projects***

Foundations - ***Three foundations and one public hospital to support their own research programs***

Special Units - ***Special purpose research centres, institutes or research units to fund a wide range of studies***

Health System Linked Research Units - ***Partnerships between researchers and other health professionals to produce research which is relevant to the delivery of health services***

Development and Special Projects - ***Developmental funds for special interest research not adequately supported by other funding agencies***

Corporate Grants - ***Funding for high priority corporate or federal-provincial research projects and related activities***

How are recipients selected?

The need for health research is far reaching and carries significant impact for our health care system. Delegation of funds is not an easy or hasty decision.

To ensure that funding is provided to research programs that will contribute to a stronger, healthier future for Ontario, applications are assessed by reviewers who are recognized health research professionals.

Once funding has been granted, annual progress reports are required to confirm that the objectives of the award are being met.

This report outlines the Ministry's research funding, and profiles some of the incredible advances that have been made as a result of our research programs.

Through our work with health researchers, the academic community, professionals throughout the health sector, as well as the public, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is helping to protect the best of Ontario's health system, and is introducing new services and programs that will make a better health care system for today and tomorrow.

RESEARCH

THE

CORNERSTONE

OF A HEALTHY

FUTURE

103-00725/

HEALTH

RESEARCH

PERSONNEL

DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAM

REVIEW PANEL

Dr. Pater, MD, MSc, FRCP (C)

The Health Research Personnel Development Program Review Panel is one of three panels established to recommend the allocation of funds to Ontario researchers. The panel assesses Career Scientist applications for funding of individuals who are training or beginning careers in health services research.

Panel Chair, Dr. Joe Pater is a Professor in the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology at Queen's University, Kingston and was head of that department from 1987 to July 2000. Dr. Pater has been a member of the Health Research Personnel Development Program Review Panel since 1988, and its Chair since 1992.

Dr. Pater believes that supporting outstanding scientists in the early stages of their careers is crucial to the quality and endurance of Ontario's health care system. "The first five years are critical to getting a candidate's research career started. By subsidizing their salary, we're enabling them to dedicate a portion of their time, which is replete with competing priorities, to research."

The Review Panel is comprised of many high profile researchers who share the same opinion. Empty seats are rare, and there is never a problem finding notable individuals to be panel members. "Having so many highly qualified people serving on the panel, evaluating the candidates and monitoring their progress ensures a high level of success, which is important for the program and the Ministry," states Dr. Pater. "The credibility of the process is exemplified by the number of highly successful graduates."

Before recommending candidates for awards, the panel looks at productivity during training, whether or not the environment in which they will be working fosters research, letters of recommendation, an individual's career potential and a detailed research plan. Once funding has been granted, annual progress reports are required to confirm that the objectives of the award are being met.

Health Research Personnel Development Program Review Panel members include:

Dr. Joseph L. Pater, Professor, Department of Community Health and Epidemiology, Queen's University, Kingston

---

Dr. Andrea Baumann, Associate Dean of Health Sciences School of Nursing, McMaster University, Hamilton

---

Dr. Brian Haynes, Chair, Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, McMaster University, Hamilton

---

Dr. Andreas Laupacis, CEO and President, Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences, North York

---

Dr. William MacKillop, Head, Radiation Oncology Research Unit, Kingston General Hospital, Kingston

---

Dr. Carol McWilliam, Chair, Graduate Program School of Nursing, Faculty of Sciences, University of Western Ontario, London

---

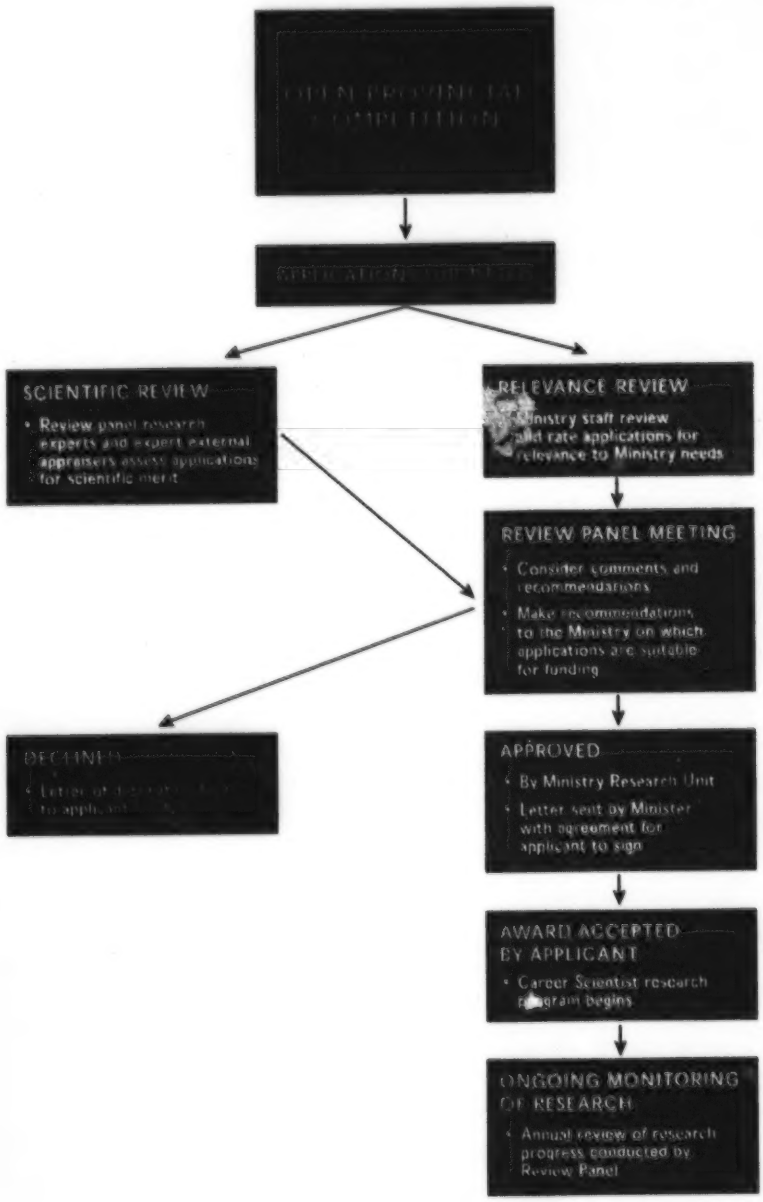
Professor Molly Verrier, Chair, Graduate Department of Rehabilitation Science, University of Toronto, Toronto

---

Dr. James Watters, Professor, Department of Surgery, Ottawa Civic Hospital, Ottawa

RESEARCH APPLICATION ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

All applications received by the Ministry's Research Unit undergo a thorough review. The review process addresses issues of the scientific rigour of the proposed study and its relevance to Ministry and health system information needs. The following provides an example of our review processes.


SCIENTIFIC REVIEW
• Review panel research experts and expert external appraisers assess applications for scientific merit
RELEVANCE REVIEW
• Ministry staff review and rate applications for relevance to Ministry needs
REVIEW PANEL MEETING
• Consider comments and recommendations
• Make recommendations to the Ministry on which applications are suitable for funding
APPROVED
• By Ministry Research Unit
• Letter sent by Minister with agreement for applicant to sign
AWARD ACCEPTED BY APPLICANT
• Career Scientist research program begins
ONGOING MONITORING OF RESEARCH
• Annual review of research progress conducted by Review Panel

1999 Career Scientist Awards

In 1999/2000 there were ten new Career Scientists. Nine researchers were selected to receive the 1999 Open Provincial Career Scientist Award. In addition, Dr. Papaionnou was nominated by her university for an allocated Career Scientist Award. The Ministry will provide more than $2 million in funding to help support them over the next five years, allowing them to devote 75 percent of their work to research. Another forty-nine Career Scientists had their funding renewed.

In 1999/2000 there were 59 active Career Scientists conducting research with the assistance of funds from the Ministry. History has proven that recipients of the Career Scientist Award move forward to make significant contributions to health research and the health system in Ontario. Proud examples of these are Doctors David Naylor, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto and founding Director of the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES), Alex Mackenzie, Director of the Research Institute, Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, Carol McWilliam, Chair of the Graduate School of Nursing, University of Western Ontario and Moira Stewart, Director of the Thames Valley Family Practice Research Unit.

Jonathan Lomas, Executive Director, Canadian Health Services Research Foundation (CHSRF), and founding Director of the Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis (CHEPA) is also a former recipient of the Career Scientist Award. The Ministry is also proud that former Career Scientist Award recipients, Doctors Alba DiCenso, a Professor in McMaster University's School of Nursing, Linda O'Brien Pallas, Co-director of the Nursing Effectiveness, Utilization and Outcomes Research Unit, University of Toronto, and Nancy Edwards, Director of the Community Health Research Unit at the University of Ottawa have all gone on to be awarded the CHSRF Chair in nursing research.

MINISTER HONOURS 1999/2000 GRANT AWARD RECIPIENTS

In November of 1999, 17 brilliant Ontario researchers were honoured at a reception held by the office of the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care. The event was in celebration of the fact that together they were awarded more than $3 million in health research grants.

Funding was the result of two competitions - the *Open Provincial Career Scientist Awards* and the *Ontario Health Services Co-Sponsorship Fund*.
(Please see pages 8 through 11)

"Our government is supporting health research in Ontario to help ensure that the best health care services are available in our province. I am confident these outstanding researchers will help to improve the organization, management and delivery of health services to the people of Ontario," said Elizabeth Witmer, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care.

HEALTH RESEARCH PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

CAREER SCIENTISTS

Recipients of the 1999 Career Scientist Award

Dr. Julia Abelson, Evaluation of Health Services and Funding

Dr. Kathryn J. Bennett, Preventive Mental Health Services for Children

Dr. Susan Bondy, Cancer Care Outcomes

Dr. Heather S. Boon, Alternative and Complementary Medicine in Ontario

Dr. Lucie Brosseau, Treatments and Measurement Scales in Rehabilitation

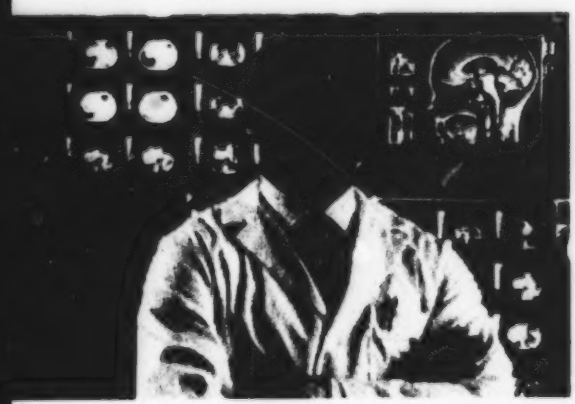
Dr. Paul Dick, Pediatric Home Care and Hospitalization

Dr. Alexandra Papaionnou, Osteoporosis and Geriatric Medicine

Dr. Lawrence F. Paszat, Cancer Treatment Assessment

Dr. Neville Suskin, Cardiac Rehabilitation Prevention

Dr. Wendy Sword, Perinatal Services for Disadvantaged Women



Recipients Whose Awards Were Renewed in 1999

Dr. Kenneth Allison, Health Promotion and Physical Activity

Dr. Kristan J. Aronson, Research Program in Cancer and Occupational Epidemiology

Dr. Heather M. Arthur, Access to Acute and Rehabilitation Cardiac Services

Dr. Carlos Barajas-Lopez, Gastrointestinal Disease

Dr. William Cameron, AIDS Treatments

Dr. Angela M. Cheung, Health Services Research in Postmenopausal Women's Health

Dr. Donna Ciliska, Women's Health/Health Promotion

Dr. Deborah Cook, Critical Care Evaluation

Dr. Kenneth Croitoru, Inflammatory Bowel Disease

Dr. Heather L. Davis, Use of CpG DNA for Immune Modulation

Dr. Alba DiCenso, Evaluation of the Nurse Practitioner (NP) Initiative

Dr. Laurie Elit, Informed Choice in Treatment Decisions

Dr. Michael Fehlings, Spinal Cord Injury

Dr. Brian M. Feldman, Treatments of Childhood Arthritis

Dr. Debbie Feldman-Stewart, Information Needs and Treatment Decisions of Cancer Patients

Dr. Paul J. Fletcher, Impulsive Behaviour

Dr. Ian Graham, Facilitating the Transfer of Evidence into Practice

Dr. Patti Ann Groome, Patterns of Practice in Cancer Care

Dr. Eva Grunfeld, Community Oncology

Dr. Stewart Harris, Diabetes

Dr. Margaret B. Harrison, Continuity of Care for Complex Health Populations

Dr. Paul C. Hebert, Critical Care

Dr. Daren K. Heyland, Critical Care Evaluation

Dr. Janet E. Hux, Diabetes in Ontario-Patterns of Disease Treatment and Complications

Dr. Stephen Hwang, Inner City Health

Dr. Richard Jordan, Screening and Treatment Strategies for Oral Cancer

Dr. Susan Jaglal, Hip Fracture and Health Promotion

Dr. Kevin C. Kain, Parasitology of Malaria

Dr. James F. Lewis, Acute Lung Injury

HEALTH RESEARCH PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

CAREER SCIENTISTS

HEALTH RESEARCH PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

CAREER SCIENTISTS

Recipients... continued

Dr. Ruth E. Martin, Oral Sensorimotor Disorders

Dr. Gillian McCarthy, Oral Health Care

Dr. Susan L. Mitchell, Decision-Making in Frail Elderly

Dr. Graham Nichol, Economic Evaluation of Cardiovascular Interventions

Dr. Annette O'Connor, Informed Choice in Health Care

Dr. Denis E. O'Donnell, Breathlessness in Patients with Pulmonary Disease

Dr. Beverley A. Orser, Mechanisms of Anaesthesia

Dr. William Pickett, Injury Prevention

Dr. Janet M. Pinelli, Coping with Stress in Families with High-Risk Infants

Dr. Harold G. Preiksaitis, Esophageal Disorders

Dr. Donald Redelmeier, Medical Decision-Making

Dr. Margaret Ross, Aging and Health in Women

Dr. Bonnie J. Stevens, Pain Studies in Infants

Dr. Heidi Sveistrup, Postural Control

Dr. Hubert H. Van Tol, Neurobiology of Brain Disorders

Dr. Laurie R. Wishart, Physical Therapy for Older Adults

Dr. Kaiping Yang, Mechanisms of Fetal Development

Dr. Andy Y. T. Teng, Gum Disease

Dr. Karen K. Yoshida, Independent Living and Disability

Dr. Trevor Young, Mood Disorders

The Ontario government is also providing more than $1.2 million in research grants to eight notable scientists through the Ontario Health Services Co-Sponsorship Fund, a fund established in 1998 to ensure that promising Ontario researchers have access to financial support made available by the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation.

"Ontario scientists received seven of the 15 national awards, confirming Ontario as a centre of excellence in health research," said Minister Witmer.

Proud recipients of the Ontario Health Services Co-Sponsorship Fund are:

Dr. Bruce Minore - Impact and costs due to lack of continuity of health services in the North

---

Dr. Hui N. Lee - Effects of continuity of care on quality in diabetes

---

Dr. Louise Lemieux-Charles - A network model of care for dementia to ensure continuity and accountability

---

Dr. Madhu K. Natarajan - Costs of waiting for cardiac catheterization

---

Dr. Timothy Whelan and Dr. Eva Grunfeld - Self-reported use of supportive cancer services

---

Dr. Christel Woodward - Continuity of community care for home care clients

---

Dr. Kevin Brazil - Improving care for terminal patients

The dedication and findings of these scientists will undoubtedly contribute to a stronger health care system that instills pride in Ontario health professionals and above all, a high level of confidence for those who need it most - our patients.

THE ONTARIO HEALTH SERVICES CO-SPONSORSHIP FUND

TOTAL DOLLARS AWARDED
$1,221,200

FOUNDATIONS

RECIPIENTS

Cancer Care Ontario

Ontario Mental Health Foundation

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation

(See profile on this page)

Research and ideas are incredible tools for health care professionals and their patients. To nurture the development of knowledge and innovations, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care makes an annual contribution to three research foundations and one public hospital to help support their own independent research programs.

This investment supports research staff, projects and activities, dissemination of research findings and the training of researchers.

The scope of their research includes the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancers, promoting mental health, exploring the impact of addiction on the human body and brain, and reducing the incidence and impact of spinal cord and traumatic brain injuries.

Breakthrough treatments offer promise after spinal cord injury

For spinal cord injury patients, the hypertension and chronic pain they are plagued with following their injury can be debilitating and even life threatening.

Through a condition called autonomic dysreflexia, episodes of high blood pressure cause severe headaches, strokes, abnormal heart rhythms and even death. And chronic pain can turn a gentle touch or a warm shower into an excruciating experience.

The research group of the John P. Robarts Research Institute, headed by Lynne Weaver and Greg Dekaban, in collaboration with Susan Meakin, believes that hypertension results from abnormal growth of nerve endings in the spinal cord. They also believe that both the hypertension and chronic pain are triggered by the inflammation that is present in the injured cord.

They have designed two breakthrough treatments to prevent these potentially life threatening complications for patients with spinal cord injury. In the first treatment, a synthetic protein which inhibits harmful nerve growth is introduced to the spinal cord after injury. The second treatment is an antibody that is injected to decrease the number of inflammatory cells in the injured spinal cord.

The study, funded by the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation, evaluates the effectiveness of these treatments in reducing autonomic dysreflexia and chronic pain in laboratory rats.

The combination of these promising treatments could successfully prevent these debilitating complications for people with spinal cord injury, and promote the survival and regenerative growth of pathways necessary for the recovery of movement and sensation.

"It is estimated that the impact of spinal cord and traumatic brain injuries is one of the most costly occurrences in Ontario's health system. We are working to reduce the incidence, prevalence and impact of spinal cord and traumatic brain injuries. With funding from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation is not only leveraging funding for promising research and projects in the injury prevention, rehabilitation and biomedical areas, but investing in strengthening Ontario's research capacity in the neurotrauma field for the benefit of all Ontarians." Kent Bassett-Spiers, Executive Director,Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation.

"Ever since my accident, I've been amazed at how little is known about spinal cord injury. I believe that continued research in this area is vitally important not only to those with spinal cord injuries, but to those who may be injured in the future." Dan Cattryse. (Pictured with Dr. Weaver) London, Ontario

SPECIAL UNITS

RECIPIENTS

Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis (CHEPA)

Nursing Effectiveness, Utilization and Outcomes Research Unit

Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research (CRaNHR)

Queen's Health Policy Research Unit (QHPRU)

Ontario Tobacco Research Unit

Environmental Hypersensitivity Research Unit

Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES)

(see profile on next page)

The landscape of our health care system has been altered dramatically. In these times of change, it is important to step back and look at the big picture so that recommendations can be made to ensure the effectiveness and quality of our health care system.

Funds are provided by the Ministry for special purpose research centres, institutes or research units to support a wide range of studies, several of which are focused on examining the structure of the health care system in communities throughout Ontario, and its impact on doctors, nurses and patients. In addition, Ministry financial support aids special units in the implementation of Ontario's Tobacco Strategy, strategies for rural and northern health care, and studies in environmental sensitivity.

Laying the groundwork for better cardiac care

Cardiovascular disease is the number one cause of death in Ontario.

To help ensure that Ontario residents have appropriate and timely access to cardiac services, the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences, a research body that contributes to the fostering of better health care in Ontario, has been a long time partner of the Cardiac Care Network of Ontario. ICES provides expert advice to the CCN on the epidemiology of heart disease and trends in the use of treatment procedures.

Not only is ICES concerned with cardiac care for today, it is focused on ensuring the availability of high quality facilities in the future. Due to rapid changes in technology and the increased demand for care of our aging population, planning for future services is critical. ICES has analyzed past Ontario trends and projected future needs based on the current trends in the management of coronary heart disease and changing demographics.

Recognized for its groundbreaking Atlas reports, ICES released Cardiovascular Health & Services in Ontario, edited by Dr. C. David Naylor and Pamela Slaughter, in 1999. It is the first comprehensive analysis of the continuum of cardiovascular disease in Ontario. The Atlas, supported by the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario and the Cardiac Care Network, found variations in the treatment and outcomes for cardiac care across the province. "Health providers are using this valuable information as the basis for quality improvement initiatives," states Dr. Naylor. "If we could reduce the risk factors for cardiovascular disease and reduce variations in treatments across the province, scores of lives would be saved each year."

Other Atlases released by ICES include Patterns of Health Care in Ontario (two editions), Cancer Surgery in Ontario, Patterns of Health Care in Ontario - Arthritis and Related Conditions, and Caesarean Section Rates in Ontario: An ICES Practice Atlas Update.

HEALTH SYSTEM LINKED RESEARCH UNITS

RECIPIENTS

It takes the collective efforts of many professionals in the health care field to weave the fabric of our health care system. That is why several strategic alliances of research units and partner agencies have been formed in Ontario. These research partnerships bring together individuals from different disciplines with a wide variety of skills to produce research which is more relevant to today's needs of the Ontario health care system and our patients.

A competitive, peer-reviewed grants program, the Health System Linked Research Units Program provides financial support to these units for the purpose of recommending improvements in the provision of health services.

Family physicians find a new source for networking - the Net

London area family physicians are improving their practice and enjoying a healthy sense of camaraderie by going on-line.

In 1993, the London Chapter of the College of Family Physicians of Canada initiated the development of the Family Medicine Education and Research Network, also known as FERN. Sponsored by the Thames Valley Family Practice Research Unit, FERN is an internet-based discussion group. It provides a forum for family physicians to participate in lively chats regarding clinical cases, family medicine research, community service opportunities and political issues.

With a current registration of 173 family physicians, FERN has become a major communication vehicle of London and area doctors. In the field of continuing education research, very few educational strategies have demonstrated the power to incite changes in practice. However, results of a recent investigation reveal that 65 percent of the FERN discussion group members reported making practice changes in topics recently discussed on the network compared to 30 percent of the non-members! The FERN program has led to two other funded studies to continue evaluating its obvious influence on practice.

What does the future hold for FERN? One of the most important implications of the FERN discussion group is improving the quality of evidence-based practice in both rural (especially rural/isolated) and urban settings. Another is the potential for on-line discussion groups of physicians, properly constituted and moderated, to build both confidence and a sense of community in large groups of family physicians in private practice who otherwise have very little professional contact with each other.

The evolving role of family practice can strengthen or weaken a health care system. There is no doubt that FERN can help build the backbone of family practice by providing an essential communication tool for physicians who are looking to their peers for assistance in providing an enhanced quality of care for their patients - in London, and beyond.

RECIPIENTS

Aboriginal Policy Studies Fund

Public Health Research Education and Development (PHRED) Program

Ontario Rehabilitation Technology [illegible] (see article on this page)

There are gaps in the research funding landscape which can make it difficult for projects of special interest to secure the financial support needed to advance knowledge in those particular areas. The Development and Special Projects fund provides funding for projects not adequately supported by other funding agencies.

Revolutionary Nimble Rocket™ gives wheelchair users multi-directional mobility

The Ontario Rehabilitation Technology Consortium (ORTC) has addressed the concerns of users of powered wheelchairs and scooters with the new Nimble Rocket™ multi-directional mobility wheelchair.

Typically the driver of a powered mobility device is limited to car-like manoeuvres, such as backing up to fit into a tight space or to reach into the refrigerator. These restrictions can make it difficult to function in a normal work or home environment. With the Nimble Rocket™, users have the ability to spin on the spot and move sideways, whether they are moving around indoors or travelling distances outside. A suspension system enables the Nimble Rocket™ to travel smoothly over uneven outdoor surfaces and ramps.

DEVELOPMENT AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

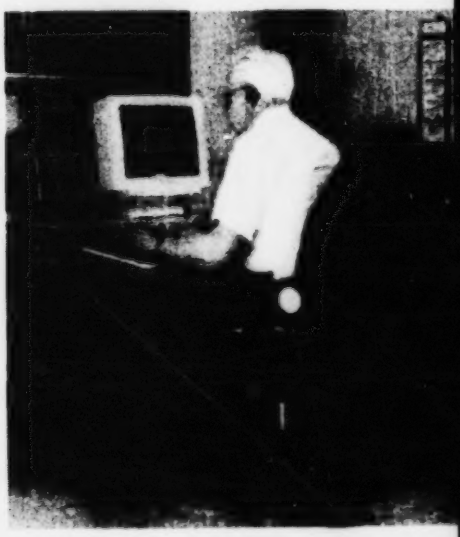
The end result of seven major generations of prototypes, each one undergoing technical and consumer evaluations, the Nimble Rocket™ is built for ease of use and optimum comfort. It enables users to operate the chair without the need for significant training, and in a way that feels as "natural" as possible.

Because powered wheelchair users spend many long hours seated in their chairs, much attention was paid to making the owner comfortable. The armrests are adjustable in length and height, and not only flip up to make it easier to get in and out of the seat, but also dip to allow the joystick control to fit under the edge of a table or a countertop so the user can get closer.

What's more, the Nimble Rocket™ looks better than a traditional wheelchair. Built like a car, the frame and all components are concealed in a pressed steel unibody. Not only does this make the Nimble Rocket™ more durable, it makes it easier to keep clean.

The Nimble Rocket™ is also fulfilling a special mandate of the ORTC to turn their prototypes into real world consumer devices using Ontario resources, wherever possible. Ontario has one of the world's strongest manufacturing bases, including numerous suppliers of high quality auto-parts. Utilizing electrical and mechanical components from Ontario suppliers, Nimble, the Nimble Rocket™'s production company conducts final assembly, testing and marketing right here in our province.

Not only are they producing a more intelligent mobility device for wheelchair users, Nimble is contributing to new job creation and a healthy economy for Ontario.



ONTARIO

CONSULTS

ON CIHR

In January 2000 the Ministries conducted a workshop to consult with Ontario's research community on the overall direction and type of health research institutes to be recommended to CIHR. Ontario welcomes the federal initiative to create CIHR to improve the health of Canadians, improve the performance of the health care system, and fuel job creation and economic development. We view this investment in a Canadian strategy of health research as an investment not only in the health of Canadians but in the future of excellence [illegible] base of [illegible] research [illegible]

Shaping the Health Research Landscape in Canada

Recognized as the home of world-class health research, Ontario is committed not only to advancing health research in our province, but across our country as well. That is why the Ministries of Health and Long-Term Care and Energy, Science and Technology welcomed the opportunity to help identify the first slate of research institutes within the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).

In developing strategies for the institutes, CIHR incorporated other Ontario recommendations such as the flexibility to respond to existing and emerging health issues, linkage to health sector decision makers and the encouragement of partnerships among researchers, research funders and other health system stakeholders.

The Ontario Ministries are pleased to have participated in mapping out the structure of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and look forward to assisting CIHR in its efforts to move Canadian health research to new levels of excellence.

ONTARIO CONSULTS ON THE CANADIAN INSTITUTES OF HEALTH RESEARCH

CIHR Institutes	Recommended by Ontario
Aboriginal People's Health	*Health of Special Populations (Aboriginal, Rural, Family, Community)*
Circulatory and Respiratory Health	*Heart, Lung, Blood and Stroke*
Cancer Research	*Cancer*
Gender and Health	*Women*
Genetics	*Genomics, Genetics, Cells and Biological Development*
Health Services and Policy Research	*Health Services, Systems, Care and Care Giving*
Healthy Aging	*Aging*
Human Development, Child and Youth Health	*Child and Human Development*
Infection and Immunity	*Immunology, Transplantation and Infectious Diseases*
Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction	*Neurosciences (Brain and Behaviour) and Mental Health*
Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis	*Musculoskeletal (Joint, Muscle, Bone, Skin, Arthritis, Disability Process, Oral Health)*
Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes	*Gastrointestinal, Kidney, Diabetes, Metabolism, Nutrition (General Health and Life Sciences)*
Population and Public Health	*Environmental, Occupational and Social Determinants of Health*

CORPORATE GRANTS

This fund supports high priority ongoing, or newly emergent, corporate or federal-provincial research projects and research related activities, such as the dissemination of research findings. It also provides financial support for research that creates, synthesizes, utilizes and evaluates information to inform the development of sound policies and effective planning decisions.

Recipients

Research Studies/Centres

AIDS Epidemiology, Dr. Robert S. Remis

Antibiotic Prescribing for Patients Receiving Ontario Drug Benefits, Dr. John Maynard Conly

Appropriateness of Home Oxygen in Current Home Oxygen Users, Dr. Gordon Guyatt

Breast Cancer Prevention, Dr. Norman F. Boyd

Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre, Dr. Arne Ohlsson

Canadian Co-ordinating Office for Health Technology Assessment (CCOHTA), Dr. Jill M. Sanders

Computerization of Medical Practices for the Enhancement of Therapeutic Effectiveness, Dr. Anne Holbrook

Dementia Care and Collaboration Project, Dr. Louise Lemieux-Charles

Early Detection of Mild Cognitive Impairment, Dr. Luis Fornazzari

Enhancing the Implementation of Ontario's Alzheimer Strategy, Dr. Michael Sharratt

Evaluation Framework for Nurse Practitioners, Dr. Moira Stewart

Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD)/LNF Omeprazole Study, Dr. Mehran Anvari

In-Home Palliative Care Pilot Evaluation, Dr. Tom Abernathy

Monitoring and Evaluation of Tobacco Use Reduction Programs, Dr. Irving Rootman

Ontario Waiting List Project, Dr. Frank Markel

Radiation and Tamoxifen for Breast Cancer, Dr. Anthony W. Fyles

Review of Literature on Health Support Services in School Settings, Michael Bach

Review of Literature on Performance Indicators for Stroke Prevention and Care, Ms. Susan MacDonald

Seniors Medication Assessment Research Trial (SMARTEN), Dr. Mitchell Levine

Seniors Medication Assessment Research Trial (SMART) - Phase II, Dr. John Sellors

Telecare Proposal - April Survey, Dr. Earl Berger

University of Toronto Special Health Research Grant, Professor Derek McCammond

Dissemination of Research Findings

4th National Community Cancer Conference, Dr. Simon Sutcliffe

Caregivers' Week, June 7 - 11, 1999, Ms. Nadia Diakun-Thibault

Clinical Management of Sickle Cell Disease, Dr. O. A. Kassim

"Handle With Care" documentary, Ms. Laura Sky

HEALNet's 5th Annual Conference "Are Health Report Cards Measuring Up?", Dr. Vivek Goel

Intergenerational Week, May 31 - June 4, 1999, Ms. Pat Varley

National Crime Prevention Conference, Ms. Priscilla de Villiers

Prescribing Guidelines, Dr. Malcolm Moore

Resource Directories of Women's Health, Ontario Women's Health Network

Subscription to C.D. Howe Institute's Corporate Membership Program, Dr. Jack Mintz

Subscription to the Health Insider, Ms. Dale McMurchy

Telehealth Vendor Analysis, Dr. Dick Whitney

Telemedicine Policy Symposium and Roundtables, Mr. Peter Deane

The ABCs of Aging Conference: Aging, Barrier or Challenge?, Mr. Morris Jesion

United Senior Citizens of Ontario 40th Annual Convention, Mr. Len Harrison

Health Intelligence Units

Central East Health Information Partnership, Newmarket

Northern Health Information Partnership, Sudbury

Health Information Partnership, Eastern Ontario Region, Kingston

Central West Health Planning Information Network, Hamilton

Southwest Region Health Information Partnership, London

CORPORATE GRANTS

FINANCIAL

REPORT

Total Amounts Awarded

Health Research Personnel Development	$3,082,300
Ontario Health Services Co-Sponsorship Fund	$1,223,206
Foundations	$15,865,646
Special Units	$8,786,885
Health System Linked Research Units	$2,486,863
Development and Special Projects	$5,916,874
Corporate Grants	$9,916,944
TOTAL:	**$47,278,718**

Appendix

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

APPENDIX

PROJECT

DESCRIPTIONS

Health Research Personnel Development Program

New Recipients of the 1999 Career Scientist Award

Dr. Julia Abelson, *Evaluation of Health Services and Funding.* ***A major focus of Dr. Abelson's research is the evaluation of reforms to the delivery, organization and funding of health services in communities across Ontario.***

Dr. Kathryn J. Bennett, *Preventive Mental Health Services for Children.* ***Dr. Bennett's research aims to strengthen preventive mental health services for children. Her work focuses on the effectiveness of school-based prevention programs and on improving our understanding of the prognostic significance of aggressive behaviour in childhood.***

Dr. Susan Bondy, *Cancer Care Outcomes.* ***Dr. Bondy's research aims to describe the care received, and to evaluate the impact of programs, with a goal to providing physicians with the most current information about the best ways to detect and treat cancer.***

Dr. Heather S. Boon, *Alternative and Complementary Medicine in Ontario.* ***Dr. Boon is systematically investigating the current utilization of complementary/alternative medicine (CAM), assessing the safety and efficacy of some of the most common treatments and products, and investigating the professionalization of CAM practitioners in Ontario.***

Dr. Lucie Brosseau, *Treatments and Measurement Scales in Rehabilitation.* ***Dr. Brosseau is undertaking research to examine the efficacy of new health and rehabilitation treatments for musculoskeletal and neurological conditions, and the impact of introducing these new treatments in rehabilitation services.***

Dr. Paul Dick, *Pediatric Home Care and Hospitalization.* ***Dr. Dick's research addresses the advantages and disadvantages of home care versus the hospital care of sick children.***

Dr. Alexandra Papaioannou, *Osteoporosis and Geriatric Medicine.* ***Dr. Papaioannou is undertaking research in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of osteoporosis, as well as the economic impact of vertebral and wrist fractures due to osteoporosis.***

Dr. Lawrence F. Paszat, *Cancer Treatment Assessment.* ***Dr. Paszat is interested in assessing the use and results of cancer treatment among Ontario's cancer patients to indicate areas of cancer treatment services that require improvement.***

Dr. Neville Suskin, *Cardiac Rehabilitation Prevention.* ***Dr. Suskin's research will test many aspects of comprehensive, multifactorial cardiac rehabilitation secondary prevention (CRSP) to help facilitate the organization and delivery of new financial models of CRSP, as well as to improve utilization and effectiveness of CRSP.***

Recipients... continued

Dr. Wendy Sword, *Perinatal Services for Disadvantaged Women.* ***Dr. Sword is interested in the accessibility and use of perinatal services for women who are vulnerable and at risk for poor maternal and child health outcomes. In particular, she focuses on socio-economically disadvantaged women.***

Recipients Whose Awards Were Renewed in 1999

Dr. Kenneth R. Allison, *Health Promotion and Physical Activity.* ***Dr. Allison is interested in applying social science theory to health promotion. He is examining the influence of psycho-social factors on physical activity, barriers to physical activity, and the effectiveness of public policy interventions to promote physical activity.***

Dr. Kristan J. Aronson, *Research Program in Cancer and Occupational Epidemiology.* ***Dr. Aronson's work focuses on the determinants of breast and prostate cancers, and a large study of Canadian workers to determine which occupations are associated with increased mortality risk.***

Dr. Heather M. Arthur, *Access to Acute and Rehabilitation Cardiac Services.* ***Dr. Arthur's research is addressing the provision of evidence to structure and provide community-based rehabilitation services to women with heart disease, and the improvement of patients' management of the waiting time for coronary artery angiogram.***

Dr. Carlos Barajas-Lopez, *Gastrointestinal Disease.* ***Dr. Barajas-Lopez is interested in the neuromuscular control of the gastrointestinal tract. He is researching components of the nervous system which control the gut area and their interaction with cells of the immune system.***

Dr. William Cameron, *AIDS Treatments.* ***Dr. Cameron is investigating the role of genital ulcer disease in promoting HIV transmission and is also developing a longitudinal study of the effects of HIV infection on the immune and neurological system.***

Dr. Angela M. Cheung, *Health Services Research in Postmenopausal Women's Health.* ***Dr. Cheung's research interests are in the area of postmenopausal health, especially in osteoporosis, cardiovascular health and prevention of breast cancer. Her research examines patterns of care, access and utilization, preferences and risks, as well as effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of various intervention strategies. The results of this research will help guide clinical and health policy in women's health in Canada.***

Dr. Donna Ciliska, *Women's Health/Health Promotion.* ***Dr. Ciliska is developing a research program in women's health. She is examining factors such as low self-esteem, body image and depression, and their relation to eating behaviour.***

Dr. Deborah Cook, *Critical Care Evaluation.* ***Dr. Cook is conducting research which evaluates diagnosis and therapy in the critical care setting. Topics studied include: gastrointestinal bleeding, septic shock, continuous monitoring of ECG, stress ulcer, pneumonia prophylaxis, and chronic airway limitation.***

APPENDIX

PROJECT

DESCRIPTIONS

Recipients... continued

Dr. Kenneth Croitoru, *Inflammatory Bowel Disease.* **Dr. Croitoru is researching inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), which includes Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, and is investigating the intestinal immune system, thought to play a central role in IBD.**

Dr. Heather L. Davis, *Use of CpG DNA for Immune Modulation.* **Dr. Davis is investigating the use of CpG DNA, a potent immune stimulator. She is evaluating and developing the use of CpG DNA for its ability to augment responses to vaccines, or for treatment of chronic infections, cancer and asthma.**

Dr. Alba DiCenso, *Evaluation of the Nurse Practitioner (NP) Initiative.* **Dr. DiCenso's research interest is the evaluation of primary care and acute care NPs in Ontario. Her research includes evaluating the effectiveness of neonatal NPs, evaluating the educational program to prepare primary care NPs, examining the practice patterns of primary care NPs and evaluating their impact on patient and health system outcomes. The results of this research will inform health policy regarding the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of NPs in Ontario.**

Dr. Laurie Elit, *Informed Choice in Treatment Decisions.* **Dr. Elit's research interest is patient preferences and shared decision-making, in particular for the delivery of cancer services to women with gynecologic malignancies.**

Dr. Michael Fehlings, *Spinal Cord Injury.* **Dr. Fehlings is studying spinal cord injury in which the severing of the cord is incomplete. His objective is to describe the nature of spinal cord dysfunction following severe injury and to develop novel therapeutic approaches.**

Dr. Brian M. Feldman, *Treatments of Childhood Arthritis.* **Dr. Feldman's research is focused on treatment of juvenile rheumatic diseases, including childhood arthritis. The research also compares the cost-effectiveness of rehabilitative and pharmacologic therapies.**

Dr. Debbie Feldman-Stewart, *Information Needs and Treatment Decisions of Cancer Patients.* **Dr. Feldman-Stewart studies ways to improve patient's understanding of their medical situation and to assist them in making treatment choices. Specifically, the studies address what information should be provided, how it should be presented, and how to help patients participate in their treatment decisions.**

Dr. Paul J. Fletcher, *Impulsive Behaviour.* **Dr. Fletcher is studying a substance in the brain to determine its role in controlling behaviour, particularly motivated behaviour such as drug taking and eating behaviour.**

Dr. Ian Graham, *Facilitating the Transfer of Evidence into Practice.* **Dr. Graham's program of study is aimed at understanding methods of facilitating the use of research information, strategies for transfer into practice to improve health and other outcomes.**

Dr. Patti Ann Groome, *Patterns of Practice in Cancer Care.* **Dr. Groome's research addresses practice pattern variations, and analyzes the impact of these variations on outcomes for larynx cancer and prostate cancer patients.**

Dr. Eva Grunfeld, *Community Oncology.* **Dr. Grunfeld is studying community follow-up of patients with breast cancer and patient involvement in planning health care. She is examining whether earlier involvement in the follow-up of cancer patients by family doctors affects their willingness to provide palliative care and also whether or not it is useful to continue mammography after breast cancer has been diagnosed.**

Dr. Stewart Harris, *Diabetes.* **Dr. Harris is developing methods to improve family physician management of patients with diabetes and assessing educational materials that promote disease prevention strategies. He is also implementing and evaluating a culturally specific community based intervention for First Nations communities.**

Dr. Margaret B. Harrison, *Continuity of Care for Complex Health Populations.* **Dr. Harrison has developed an "Intersectoral Continuity of Care Framework" to optimize health care delivery. Her studies are aimed at integrating the process of care by creating linkages across settings, providers and recipients of health care.**

Dr. Paul C. Hebert, *Critical Care.* **Dr. Hebert is evaluating critical care interventions to find out whether they save lives and are cost-effective.**

Dr. Daren K. Heyland, *Critical Care Evaluation.* **Dr. Heyland's research focuses on three main areas: diagnosis, prevention and impact of ventilator associated pneumonia; optimal nutrition for critically ill patients; and end of life decision-making.**

APPENDIX

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

Dr. Janet E. Hux, *Diabetes in Ontario - Patterns of Disease Treatment and Complications.* **Dr. Hux is using administrative data to explore the burden of diabetes and its complications in Ontaro as well as its treatment. She also has an interest in interventions to improve patterns of practice in primary care, particularly in the area of prescription drug use.**

Dr. Stephen Hwang, *Inner City Health.* **Dr. Hwang is conducting studies on health care utilization and access to care in the inner city, the effects of restructuring the health care system on poor urban populations and the optimization of health care delivery systems to meet the needs of the inner city.**

Dr. Richard Jordan, *Screening and Treatment Strategies for Oral Cancer.* **Dr. Jordan's research focuses on understanding the biology of oral precancer and oral cancer. These studies aim to reduce the incidence of oral cancer by diagnosing and treating the disease at its earliest form, the precancerous stage.**

Dr. Susan Jaglal, *Hip Fracture and Health Promotion.* **Dr. Jaglal's research program centres around population health and health promotion. In particular, she focuses on studies for the prevention of falls and injury caused by osteoporosis in the elderly. Her research emphasis is on patients who are hospitalized for, and recovering from, fracture.**

Dr. Kevin C. Kain, *Parasitology of Malaria.* **Problems such as drug resistance and relapse impede the diagnosis and management of malaria. Dr. Kain is developing a technique that can be performed using blood from a finger prick to produce a genetic "fingerprint" of the infecting agent.**

Dr. James F. Lewis, *Acute Lung Injury.* **Dr. Lewis' research interest is the role of surfactant, a substance present in the lung, in acute lung injury. He is investigating and measuring the beneficial effects of surfactant on injured lungs.**

Dr. Ruth E. Martin, *Oral Sensorimotor Disorders.* **Dr. Martin's research interest is the impairment of oral sensorimotor functions caused by stroke. She is studying the mechanisms underlying swallowing, chewing and speech, and the role of the central nervous system in these behaviours.**

Dr. Gillian McCarthy, *Oral Health Care.* **Dr. McCarthy is investigating health care workers' infection control, occupational exposures to blood and attitudes related to the provision of care for patients with HIV, HBV and HCV.**

Dr. Susan L. Mitchell, *Decision-Making in Frail Elderly.* **Dr. Mitchell's program of study aims to develop and evaluate innovative approaches to improve health care decision-making in the frail elderly, and to develop policies that improve health outcomes in the geriatric population.**

Dr. Graham Nichol, *Economic Evaluation of Cardiovascular Interventions.*
Dr. Nichol's research focus is economic evaluation in the area of cardiovascular disease. In particular, he is interested in the assessment of cardiac drugs and devices.

Dr. Annette O'Connor, *Informed Choice in Health Care.* **Dr. O'Connor will develop and evaluate decision aids for patients who need to make choices about a variety of health care options to prevent or manage chronic health conditions.**

Recipients... continued

Dr. Denis E. O'Donnell, Breathlessness in Patients with Pulmonary Disease. **Dr. O'Donnell is interested in the mechanisms and management of laboured or difficult breathing in people with lung disease such as asthma.**

Dr. Beverley A. Orser, Mechanisms of Anaesthesia. **Dr. Orser is investigating the effects of different anaesthetics on the nervous system. She is identifying the protein receptors that mediate the therapeutic properties of anaesthetics. This information will be used to administer available drugs in a rational manner and develop safer anaesthetic compounds.**

Dr. William Pickett, Injury Prevention. **Dr. Pickett is examining injury rates, causes and outcomes. His studies include research on the prevention of childhood injuries, agricultural injuries, and applied emergency medicine studies.**

Dr. Janet M. Pinelli, Coping with Stress in Families with High-Risk Infants. **Dr. Pinelli is studying the factors which contribute to family dysfunction, following the birth of a newborn, to determine where interventions by health professionals are effective.**

Dr. Harold G. Preiksaitis, Esophageal Disorders. **Dr. Preiksaitis is studying the molecular basis for human esophageal smooth muscle contraction. Abnormal contractions of esophageal smooth muscle result in disorders that cause certain types of chest pain, heartburn and swallowing difficulties.**

Dr. Donald Redelmeier, Medical Decision-Making. **Dr. Redelmeier is interested in decision-making in the health care system. His research will examine how policy makers, physicians and patients make decisions.**

Dr. Margaret Ross, Aging and Health in Women. **Dr. Ross' research objectives are to investigate the relationship of chronic illness and disability to independent living in later life. She is also investigating the role of formal and informal care strategies for maintaining chronically ill and/or disabled seniors in their homes.**

Dr. Bonnie J. Stevens, Pain Studies in Infants. **Dr. Stevens is assessing and evaluating the infant's response to acute procedural pain (e.g. heel lance) and chronic pain (e.g. repeated painful procedures) and how this pain influences clinical and economic outcomes.**

Dr. Heidi Sveistrup, Postural Control. **Dr. Sveistrup's research focuses on the understanding of human movement. She is particularly interested in posture and balance control, falls in the elderly and with people who have had a stroke, joint range of motion, as well as infant and child motor development. Her research tools permit her to quantify movement kinematics and kinetics as well as the muscle activity influencing motion. The data acquired help us understand basic mechanisms of movement. In addition, a significant focus in the determination of the effects of rehabilitative therapy, exercise programs and other interventions with healthy populations and populations with mobility impairments, neurological and musculoskeletal pathology.**

Dr. Hubert H. Van Tol, Neurobiology of Brain Disorders. **Dr. Van Tol's research goal is to describe the dopamine receptor system in the brain and its role in psychiatric diseases, particularly schizophrenia.**

Dr. Laurie R. Wishart, Physical Therapy for Older Adults. **Dr. Wishart is studying how older adults learn movement skills, and is evaluating physical therapy interventions to determine which ones maximize relearning of functional skills in elderly disabled individuals.**

Dr. Kaiping Yang, Mechanisms of Fetal Development. **Dr. Yang is studying mechanisms that control the growth of fetal organs and the onset of labour. In particular, he is interested in the role of one substance that plays a central role in the development of the fetus' kidneys and liver.**

Dr. Andy Y. T. Teng, Gum Disease. **Dr. Teng is studying periodontal diseases. By using genetically altered white blood cells, he is studying the body's immune response to bacterial infection in tooth-supporting tissue.**

Dr. Karen K. Yoshida, Independent Living and Disability. **Dr. Yoshida is examining the relationship between rehabilitation practices and independent living for young working adults with physical disabilities.**

Dr. Trevor Young, Mood Disorders. **Dr. Young's work focuses on brain information processing activity for people with mood disorders, such as manic depression.**

Ontario Health Services Co-Sponsorship Fund

Dr. Bruce Minore, *Impact and Costs Due to Lack of Continuity of Health Services in the North.* **Dr. Minore will document the health impacts and costs, to the system and to individual patients, of a lack of continuity in the delivery of oncology, diabetes and mental health services to three Shibogama Tribal area communities in Northwestern Ontario.**

Dr. Hui N. Lee, *Effects of Continuity of Care on Quality in Diabetes.* **The aim of this research is to determine if continuity of care affects the quality of health care. It will identify barriers to providing such care, potential solutions, and the costs associated with variations in continuity of care.**

Dr. Louise Lemieux-Charles, *A Network Model of Care to Ensure Continuity and Accountability.* **Dr. Lemieux-Charles' research addresses issues of continuity of care for people with dementia and accountability among care providers in three service delivery networks in Ontario.**

Dr. Madhu K. Natarajan, *Costs of Waiting for Cardiac Catheterization.* **The objective of this research is to determine the costs to the individual (mortality, morbidity, quality of life) and to society of waiting for cardiac catheterization. What determines the lengths of waits? And how can waiting lists be better managed?**

Dr. Timothy Whelan, *Self-Reported Use of Supportive Services.* **This study will assess whether there has been an increase in health professionals' awareness and patients' awareness and self-reported use of supportive care services in three regions of Ontario (central west, eastern and northwestern) with the introduction of supportive cancer care networks.**

Dr. Christel Woodward, *Continuity of Community Care for Home Care Clients.* **This study will describe the nature and extent of continuity of care provided to adult, long term Community Care Access Centre clients with chronic illnesses.**

Dr. Kevin Brazil, *Improving Care for Terminal Patients.* **This study will research the care provided to terminal patients and seek ways to improve it so it is more useful to family caregivers and the terminally ill.**

Foundations

Cancer Care Ontario (CCO), **Dr. Ken Shumak, President and CEO. Supports researchers at CCO's regional cancer centres, in universities, and at the Ontario Cancer Institute.**

Ontario Mental Health Foundation, **Dr. Howard Cappell, Executive Director. The OMHF was established in 1960 by the Ontario Mental Health Foundation Act. Its mission is to fund research that promotes the mental health of people living in Ontario, prevents mental illness and improves diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation.**

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, **Dr. Paul Garfinkel, President and CEO. The centre's research activities span the entire spectrum of health research including biological, clinical, social, and health services research and bring together 10 research units at three sites: Clarke Institute; Addiction Research Foundation; and the Queen St. Mental Health Centre.**

APPENDIX

PROJECT

DESCRIPTIONS

Foundations... continued

Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation, **Mr. Kent Bassett-Spiers, Executive Director. The Ontario Neurotrauma Fund (ONF) was established as a charitable foundation in 1998. Ministry funds, which are matched by the foundation, are used to support neurotrauma prevention, rehabilitation, and biomedical research in Ontario.**

Special Units

Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis (CHEPA), **Dr. Brian Hutchison, Acting Director. CHEPA's objectives are to contribute to and increase the amount of original research conducted on health economics and health policy questions, to increase the training opportunities in these fields in order to enhance resources for the province, and to create a more effective exchange between researchers and policymakers, thereby improving the policy relevance of applied research and providing increased scope for the use of research in the policy process.**

Nursing Effectiveness, Utilization and Outcomes Research Unit, **Dr. Linda O'Brien Pallas and Dr. Andrea Baumann, Co-directors. The unit investigates the appropriate supply, distribution, and employment of nurses, to enable them to meet their new responsibilities as a result of restructuring in the health care system and to determine methods to maintain quality while realizing funding efficiencies in the health care system.**

Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research (CRaNHR), **Dr. Raymond Pong and Dr. Bruce Minore, Co-directors. CRaNHR supports research to assist the Ministry in implementing its strategies for northern and rural health care and is comprised of a multi-disciplinary team of researchers in partnership with service agencies, consumer groups and northern health care providers.**

Queen's Health Policy Research Unit (QHP), **Dr. Samuel Shortt, Director. The program includes: research on health policy, programs, services, utilization, costs and alternative delivery systems; contract evaluation of alternative forms of health care organization, funding and delivery; dissemination of information on these areas; and research training.**

Ontario Tobacco Research Unit, **Dr. Roberta Ferrence, Director. The unit is responsible for monitoring progress on Ontario's Tobacco Strategy and reporting information on key indicators, conducting regular literature reviews and analysis of ongoing research in priority areas, participating in program and policy research, and providing a provincial focus for tobacco-related research and community health system networking, nationally and internationally.**

Environmental Hypersensitivity Research Unit, **Dr. Gail E. McKeown-Eyssen, Director. The unit conducts research into environmental sensitivity, working in partnership with the Environmental Health Clinic located at Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Science Centre for some of its research.**

Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences in Ontario (ICES), **Dr. Jack Williams, President and CEO. The institute studies the services physicians deliver, including the rates and appropriateness of medical procedures performed, hospital lengths of stay, and drugs being used. Their research identifies variations in procedures and treatments being delivered to patients that will enable improvements in quality, accessibility or efficiency of services to be made.**

Health System Linked Research Units

CanChild Centre for Childhood Disability Research (formerly the Neurodevelopmental Clinical Research Unit), **Dr. Mary C. Law and Dr. Peter L. Rosenbaum, Co-directors. CanChild brings together a multi-disciplinary research team from McMaster University's Faculty of Health Sciences to work in partnership with the Ontario Association of Children's Rehabilitation Services to advance the health services and life quality of Ontario's children and youth with disabilities.**

Community Health Research Unit, **Dr. Nancy Edwards, Director. A research partnership of the University of Ottawa and the region of Ottawa-Carleton Health Department fosters province-wide improvements in public health services. Research areas of interest include self care, community action and supportive environments. Examples of health issues addressed by the unit include preventing injuries and HIV, promoting heart health and healthy aging, and tobacco control.**

Hospital Management Research Unit, **Dr. Louise Lemieux-Charles, Director. A multi-disciplinary team from the University of Toronto's Department of Health Administration, in partnership with Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Science Centre, seeks to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Ontario hospitals.**

Health System Linked Research Units

Arthritis Community Program Evaluation Research Unit, **Dr. Elizabeth M. Badley, Director. The unit brings together researchers from the University Health Network (formerly at the Wellesley Hospital), Graduate Department of Rehabilitation Science at University of Toronto, and other institutions within the city, to work together in partnership with the Arthritis Society, Ontario Division to carry out research aimed at reducing the adverse impact of arthritis on individuals, their families, and in the community through comprehensive research directed at improving the delivery of services and the quality of care for people with arthritis in the community.**

Health and Social Service Utilization Research Unit, **Dr. Gina M. Browne, Director. Researchers from McMaster University's Schools of Nursing and Social Work, and the Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis, work in partnership with a consortium of community health and social agencies in Hamilton-Wentworth and Halton regions to improve the health of people with chronic conditions while lowering the expense for their care.**

Community Dental Health Services Research Unit, **Dr. David Locker, Director. This partnership between the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Toronto and the Dental Divisions of six Ontario Public Health Units/Departments, facilitates the planning, organization and delivery of improved public health dental services to ensure that appropriate treatment, prevention and health promotion services are accessible to all.**

Supportive Cancer Care Research Unit, **Dr. Tim Whelan, Director. The goal of the unit is to study ways to improve supportive health services provided to cancer patients and their families through research and research transfer activities. Two major thematic areas have been identified including the Quality of Supportive Care and Evaluation, and Information Exchange. The former focuses on ambulatory, community and home-based services, rather than hospital services, and examines links between formal and informal resources for support and ways to strengthen them. Information Exchange focuses on the development and evaluation of methods to improve dissemination of information for cancer patients and to involve them in treatment decision-making.**

Thames Valley Family Practice Research Unit, **Dr. Moira Stewart, Director. This partnership between the University of Western Ontario and the London Chapter of the College of Family Physicians of Canada examines how family doctors can provide more effective care.**

Development and Special Grants

Ontario Rehabilitation Technology Consortium (ORTC), **Dr. Morris Milner, Director. The ORTC serves as an engine of innovation in the assistive devices field by conducting research, developing and facilitating the commercialization of products to enhance the lives of persons with disabilities, their families and communities.**

Aboriginal Policy Studies Fund. **Coordinated by the Aboriginal Health Office, these grants support special policy and planning studies to address Aboriginal health issues. Funding went to: an Aboriginal Chair at the University of Toronto; the 2000 Ontario Health Promotion Summer School; the Noojimawin Health Authority; the Ontario Aboriginal Patient Advocacy Initiative; Family Medicine North, Health Sciences North; and the network North Community Mental Health Group.**

Public Health Research, Education and Development (PHRED) Program. **This program supports effective and efficient delivery of public health programs and services in Ontario and encompasses five strategic directions: program development; systematic reviews of research evidence in public health; evaluation and applied research; continuing education; and education of health science students.**

APPENDIX

PROJECT

DESCRIPTIONS

Corporate Grants

Research Studies/Centres

AIDS Epidemiology, **Dr. Robert S. Remis. The focus of this project is to monitor and assist in the control of the evolving HIV epidemic in Ontario.**

Antibiotic Prescribing for Patients Receiving Ontario Drug Benefits, **Dr. John Maynard Conly. The primary objective of the project is to assess the appropriateness of physician prescribing for patients receiving Ontario Drug Benefits for three targeted antibiotics based on established criteria.**

Appropriateness of Home Oxygen in Current Home Oxygen Users, **Dr. Gordon Guyatt. The primary goal of the project is to determine in 40 patients, with important exertional dyspnea and demonstrable exercise hypoxemia, the proportion whose health-related quality of life improves on home oxygen use in comparison to placebo oxygen.**

Breast Cancer Prevention, **Dr. Norman F. Boyd. The purpose of this study is to determine if breast cancer incidence in women at increased risk for this disease can be reduced by a low fat, high carbohydrate diet.**

Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre, **Dr. Arne Ohlsson, Director. The Cochrane Collaboration is an international initiative that aims to help people make well informed decisions about health care by preparing, maintaining and ensuring the accessibility of systematic reviews of the effects of health care interventions.**

Canadian Co-ordinating Office for Health Technology Assessment (CCOHTA), **Dr. Jill M. Sanders, President. CCOHTA is a joint federal/provincial initiative which collects, analyzes and disseminates information concerning the effectiveness and cost of health technology and its impact on the health care system.**

Clinical Management of Sickle Cell Disease, **Dr. O.A. Kassim. The purpose of the workshop, planned in connection to Sickle Cell Anaemia Awareness Month, was to increase knowledge in the diagnosis and treatment of sickle cell anaemia and other inherited anaemias.**

The Computerization of Medical Practices for the Enhancement of Therapeutic Effectiveness, **Dr. Anne Holbrook. The research team is focusing on key aspects of research to advance the frontiers of medical care with the use of intelligent computer software applications, in community primary care.**

Dementia Care and Collaboration Project, **Dr. Louise Lemieux-Charles. The purpose of this grant is to augment the Dementia Care and Collaboration Project with the addition of a research study of the Dementia Network of the Ottawa-Carleton region.**

Early Detection of Mild Cognitive Impairment, **Dr. Luis Fornazzari. This pilot study is to devise and validate a brief battery of neuropsychological tests, genetic and biochemical markers and neuroimaging techniques to identify mild cognitive impairment associated with early stages of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.**

Enhancing the Implementation of Ontario's Alzheimer Strategy, **Dr. Michael Sharratt. This grant provides salary support for a post-doctoral fellowship conducting research to enhance and complement the work of the Innovation Centres and the Murray Alzheimer Research and Education Program's (MAREP) involvement in the Ontario Strategy for Alzheimer Disease.**

Evaluation Framework for Nurse Practitioners, **Dr. Moira Stewart. This grant funds the development of a methodology to evaluate the nurse practitioner program in various settings.**

Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD)/LNF Omeprazole Study, **Dr. Mehran Anvari. This study will compare laparoscopic nissen fundoplication (LNF) with Omeprazole in the management of patients with chronic GERD requiring maintenance therapy.**

Research Studies/Centres... *continued*

In-Home Palliative Care Pilot Evaluation, **Dr. Tom Abernathy. This study will determine the effectiveness of the pilot of a team-based approach to the provision of palliative care, resulting from the alternate payment program between the Ministry, Toronto Palliative Care Associates and the Toronto Community Care Access Centre.**

Monitoring and Evaluation of Tobacco Use Reduction Programs, **Dr. Irving Rootman. This grant supports the work of Dr. Roberta Ferrence and colleagues at the Ontario Tobacco Research Unit, who are evaluating and monitoring tobacco use reduction programs, as part of the renewal of the Ontario Tobacco Strategy.**

Ontario Waiting List Project, **Dr. Frank Markel. This study will introduce the use of the rankings, on a pilot basis in Ontario, developed by the Western Canada Project and will pilot three of their waiting list tools.**

Radiation and Tamoxifen for Breast Cancer, **Dr. Anthony W. Fyles. The objective of this study is to determine whether the use of tamoxifen therapy alone can reduce the rate of local breast cancer recurrence to an acceptable level and thereby eliminate the need for additional breast radiation therapy.**

Review of Literature on Health Support Services in School Settings, **Michael Bach. The study examined literature on the trends in service needs and best practices in integrated delivery models, as they relate to the provision of health support services in school settings within Ontario, across Canada, as well as other jurisdictions.**

Review of Literature on Performance Indicators for Stroke Prevention and Care, **Ms. Susan MacDonald. This grant funded a literature review of performance indicators that have been developed specifically for, or are applicable to, stroke prevention care.**

Seniors Medication Assessment Research Trial (SMARTEN), **Dr. Mitchell Levine. This trial is to determine the feasibility of establishing an electronic network between pairs of community pharmacists-family physicians.**

Seniors Medication Assessment Research Trial (SMART) - Phase II, **Dr. John Sellors. This project addresses the need to improve drug prescribing by family physicians to reduce preventable drug-related problems experienced by older adults.**

Telecare Proposal - April Survey, **Dr. Earl Berger. The Berger Population Health Monitor is a twice yearly national survey on public attitudes toward, and experiences of, health-related issues. This grant funded a special survey related to telecare.**

University of Toronto Special Health Research Grant, **Professor Derek McCammond. Three broad areas of research are supported by this grant. They include: community health research, such as health promotion, disease prevention and the broader determinants of health; health services research on health outcomes and service delivery; and biomedical research in cancer, diabetes and clinical application of basic research.**

Dissemination of Research Findings

4th National Community Cancer Conference, **Dr. Simon Sutcliffe. Held in Victoria, British Columbia on May 12 - 14, 2000, this conference focused on the roles of family practitioners, health professionals and community-based surgeons working with cancer system providers, and addressed the theme "getting the patient into the optimal healing environment."**

Caregivers' Week, June 7-11, 1999, **Ms. Nadia Diakun-Thibault. Activities during this second week of Seniors' Month provide Ontarians with an opportunity to: acknowledge and show their appreciation for the efforts of caregivers who assist seniors with their daily living activities and enhance seniors' quality of life; draw attention to and validate caregivers' needs; promote partnerships with and amongst stakeholders through information sharing and network building; and promote the development of programs and services to meet caregivers' needs.**

"Handle with Care" Documentary, **Ms. Laura Sky. The purpose of this project is to produce a one hour film documenting the lives of two women living with metastatic breast cancer, and portrays how friends, family and health professionals can be helpful to them.**

HealNet's 5th Annual Conference "Are Health Report Cards Measuring Up?", **Dr. Vivek Goel. The conference, held on April 2-4, 2000, focused on issues related to accountability and performance measurement, including the use of evidence-based tools in health performance assessment and methods for developing, critically appraising and using report cards, practice atlases and balance scoreboards.**

Intergenerational Week, May 31 - June 4, 1999, **Ms. Pat Varley. Activities during this first week of Seniors' Month spotlight organizations which are already active intergenerationally, and promote new activities.**

National Crime Prevention Conference, **Ms. Priscilla de Villiers. This crime prevention conference was held October 3-5, 1999 in Hamilton.**

Prescribing Guidelines, **Dr. Malcolm Moore. The grant will support the Ontario Program for Optimal Therapeutics in the printing and disseminating of prescribing guidelines for 10 diseases/areas (GERD, Musculoskeletal Disease, Osteoporosis, Chronic/Congestive Heart Failure, Diabetes, Anxiety, Anti-infectives, Asthma, Cholesterol Reduction, Hypertension).**

Resource Directories of Women's Health, **Ontario Women's Health Network. The purpose of this project is to develop user-friendly, comprehensive and accessible regional and provincial directories of women's health services, programs and resources.**

Subscription to C.D. Howe Institute's Corporate Membership Program, **Dr. Jack Mintz. The corporate membership permits the entire senior management of the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to access the Institute's policy analysis, research information, reports and publications.**

Subscription to the Health Insider, **Ms. Dale McMurchy. The subscription provides all Ministry staff with access to a semi-annual consumer survey on health care.**

Telehealth Vendor Analysis, **Dr. Dick Whitney. This national project, guided and co-funded by representatives from British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Ontario and Health Canada, supports the Program Policy Branch's preparation of recommendations regarding implementation of a 1-800 telephone health and triage advisory service for Ontario.**

Telemedicine Policy Symposium and Roundtables, **Mr. Peter Deane. The Northern Shores District Health Council will co-host a series of research/consultative symposia and roundtables to explore telemedicine policy issues and will subsequently disseminate the research findings broadly.**

The ABCs of Aging Conference: Aging, Barrier or Challenge?, **Mr. Morris Jesion. A conference to celebrate the International Year of the Older Person was held May 26, 1999.**

United Senior Citizens of Ontario 40th Annual Convention, **Mr. Len Harrison. This convention addressed issues ranging from long-term care to drug usage of seniors.**

Health Intelligence Units

HIUs represent partnerships among District Health Councils, Public Health Departments and Academic Health Science Centres. The units seek out research and other data and information, analyze and synthesize it, and help their partners apply it to planning decisions about professional education, research, public health programs and health care services in the region.

Central West Health Planning Information Network, **Dr. Tom Abernathy**

Northern Health Information Partnership, **Mr. Vic Sahai**

Health Information Partnership, Eastern Ontario Region, **Dr. Duncan Hunter**

Southwest Region Health Information Partnership, **Dr. Ian Johnson (Interim)**

Central East Health Information Partnership, **Mr. Sten Ardal**

APPENDIX

PROJECT

DESCRIPTIONS

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

Contact Information

RESEARCH UNIT

Level 2, 5700 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON M2M 4K5
Tel: (416) 327-2467
Fax: (416) 327-0888
www.gov.on.ca

STAFF CONTACTS

Hanita Tiefenbach
Manager
Tel: (416) 327-4420
Hanita.Tiefenbach@moh.gov.on.ca

Mel Sweetnam
Research Transfer Advisor
Tel: (416) 327-7948
Mel.Sweetnam@moh.gov.on.ca

Catia Creatura
Senior Research Consultant
Tel: (416) 327-8457
Catia.Creatura@moh.gov.on.ca

Elizabeth Tan
Research Analyst
Tel: (416) 327-8363
Elizabeth.Tan@moh.gov.on.ca

Allen Paul
Research Analyst
Tel: (416) 327-8364
Allen.Paul@moh.gov.on.ca

Krista Suwala
Program Intern
Tel: (416) 327-7684
Krista.Suwala@moh.gov.on.ca

Debbie Lora
Research Officer
Tel: (416) 327-8365
Debbie.Lora@moh.gov.on.ca

Stella Badin
Payment Officer
Tel: (416) 327-8366
Stella.Badin@moh.gov.on.ca

Agnes Chan
Administrative Assistant
Tel: (416) 327-2467
Agnes.Chan@moh.gov.on.ca